



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**PERINATAL MORTALITY IN NEW YORK CITY—Responsible Factors.** Schuyler G. Kohl, M.S., M.D., Dr. P.H., Commonwealth Fund, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1955. 112 pages, \$2.50.

This small book represents a painstaking analysis of 955 stillbirths and neonatal deaths occurring in New York City in 1950. It is published under the auspices of the New York Academy of Medicine and represents primarily the work of its subcommittee on Neonatal Mortality. The statistical analyses have been carried out in the Columbia School of Public Health. The purpose of the study is not to duplicate information available from vital statistics records, but is "to concentrate on preventability, responsibility, cause of death, and related clinical data." This the book does well. Attention is given to such factors as the following in their relation to perinatal deaths: type of obstetrical care, age and parity of the mother, obstetric complications, analgesia and anesthesia, method of delivery, and time of death. A significant chapter is devoted to causes of death and their agreement on pathologic, clinical, and recorded death certificate bases. The final chapter summarizes the findings of the study, set forth in twenty-four points; in addition the author offers a number of suggestions of value to those undertaking future investigations of a similar type. This book may be recommended to obstetricians, pediatricians, and public health workers concerned especially with the statistical approach to problems of perinatal mortality. Organizations concerned with fetal and neonatal deaths will find it a useful reference.

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**BONE AND JOINT X-RAY DIAGNOSIS.** Max Ritvo, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1955. 752 pages, 568 illustrations, \$20.00.

This comprehensive textbook is divided into ten chapters of widely varying lengths. The opening chapter deals with general considerations of radiology and osteology. There are chapters on hereditary and congenital disorders of the skeleton, traumatic lesions, infections, endocrine and metabolic disturbances, and bone changes due to chemical and physical agents. The next chapter deals with diseases of the joints and periarticular tissues. The last three chapters deal with bone tumors, diseases of the spinal canal and soft tissue roentgenography of various portions of the body.

In general, there is adequate discussion of the clinical, pathological and roentgenological manifestations of bone disorders; there are occasional references to treatment and there are good sections on differential diagnosis. The references to the literature are rather sparse, and the number of illustrations somewhat modest for a seven hundred-fifty page book (the illustrations number 398). However, the latter are in positive form and are of very good quality. The book, therefore, would appear to be primarily for students, and one to be used in conjunction with a good roentgen teaching file. Most of the material comes from the Boston City Hospital at which the author is Director of the Department of Radiology.

**CHRISTOPHER'S MINOR SURGERY—7th ed.** Alton Ochsner, M.D., F.A.C.S., William Henderson Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Tulane University School of Medicine; and Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Baylor University College of Medicine, W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 547 pages, 251 illustrations, \$9.00.

Christopher's *Minor Surgery* has been for many years one of the outstanding texts on minor surgery. It has not been revised for seven years, however, and the present revision, which constitutes the seventh edition, has been admirably accomplished by Ochsner and DeBakey. These authors have changed the format of the book entirely, and since the many contributors to this new volume were all at one time or another closely associated with Ochsner and DeBakey the book maintains a uniformity of presentation despite its multiple authorship. It is clearly and concisely written. The subject material covered is well arranged and the illustrations are reasonably adequate. Condensation from previous volumes has been accomplished by avoiding the innumerable references and quotations from countless authors which heavily burdened the previous editions. One good method of treatment is given for each condition and the reader is no longer left to choose from a variety of different methods of managing minor surgical lesions.

The term "minor surgery" has never been adequately or clearly defined, and the book suffers in scope since it is limited to a discussion of conditions in which there is little or no threat to life. Many readers will be disappointed in the failure to cover many subjects which they would hope to have discussed to make the book more useful in everyday practice of surgery. Insufficient detail is also given in many of the discussions to permit pertinent judgments in the course of treatment of many conditions discussed. On the whole, however, the present edition is superior to any of the earlier ones, and it is a good book on "Minor Surgery."

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**HYPERTENSION—Humoral and Neurogenic Factors—Ciba Foundation Symposium.** Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., and Margaret P. Cameron, M.A., A.B.I.S. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1954. 294 pages, 73 illustrations, \$6.75.

This is the record of some twenty papers and the discussions evoked by them at a meeting in 1953 of 33 students of hypertension gathered in London from North and South America, England, Spain, Sweden, etc. For the most part, the material is more academic than practical (neural and humoral control of blood vessels, renin, 5-hydroxytryptamine, catechol amines). A number of chapters, such as those on hypertensive disease without hypertension, role of the kidney in hypertension, the relationships between water, electrolytes, the adrenals and arterial pressure, and ganglion blocking agents, should be of wider interest. The provocative discussions are valuable. The work contains adequate illustrations and indexes; it is well published and represents an excellent review of the current state of advances toward the understanding of arterial hypertension.